

10. (Amended) A method for screening a gene encoding a polypeptide that converts an inactive form of vitamin D3 into an active form, the method comprising

(A) introducing a test gene into a cell comprising (i) a vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a vitamin D receptor and (ii) a vector comprising a binding sequence of the vitamin D receptor and, located downstream of the binding sequence, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter molecule,

(B) contacting an inactive form of vitamin D3 with the cell into which the test gene is introduced,

(C) evaluating the activity of the reporter molecule, and

(D) isolating the test gene from the cell if the cell shows reporter activity.

11. (Amended) A method for determining whether or not a test gene encodes a polypeptide that converts an inactive form of vitamin D3 into an active form, the method comprising

(A) introducing a test gene into a cell comprising (i) a vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a vitamin D receptor and (ii) a vector comprising a binding sequence to which vitamin D receptor and, located downstream of the binding sequence, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter binds molecule,

(B) contacting an inactive form of vitamin D3 with the cell into which the test gene is introduced, and

(C) evaluating the activity of the reporter molecule.